



PERFORMANCE WORK STATEMENT (PWS)

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Information & Technology
Austin Information Technology Center (AITC)**

Synchronous Optical Networking (SONET) Ring

**Date: November 5, 2012
PWS Version Number: 0.1**

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1.0 BACKGROUND

The mission of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Information & Technology (OIT), Austin Information Technology Center (AITC), requires Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) Ring data networking service. The service is for OC-48 private SONET ring between the customer location at AITC 1615 Woodward St, Austin, TX 78772 and two contractor-owned or collocated Points of Presence (POP) or Central Offices.

2.0 APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

In the performance of the tasks associated with this Performance Work Statement, the Contractor shall comply with the following:

1. 44 U.S.C. § 3541, "Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002"
2. Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) Publication 140-2, "Security Requirements For Cryptographic Modules"
3. FIPS Pub 201, "Personal Identity Verification of Federal Employees and Contractors," March 2006
4. 10 U.S.C. § 2224, "Defense Information Assurance Program"
5. Software Engineering Institute, Software Acquisition Capability Maturity Modeling (SA CMM) Level 2 procedures and processes
6. 5 U.S.C. § 552a, as amended, "The Privacy Act of 1974"
7. 42 U.S.C. § 2000d "Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"
8. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Directive 0710, "Personnel Suitability and Security Program," May 18, 2007
9. VA Directive 6102, "Internet/Intranet Services," July 15, 2008
10. 36 C.F.R. Part 1194 "Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards," July 1, 2003
11. OMB Circular A-130, "Management of Federal Information Resources," November 28, 2000
12. 32 C.F.R. Part 199, "Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS)"
13. An Introductory Resource Guide for Implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Security Rule, October 2008
14. Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), August 7, 1998
15. Homeland Security Presidential Directive (12) (HSPD-12), August 27, 2004
16. VA Directive 6500, "Information Security Program," August 4, 2006
17. VA Handbook 6500, "Information Security Program," September 18, 2007
18. VA Handbook 6500.1, "Electronic Media Sanitization," March 22, 2010
19. VA Handbook 6500.2, "Management of Security and Privacy Incidents," June 17, 2008.

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20. VA Handbook 6500.3, "Certification and Accreditation of VA Information Systems," November 24, 2008.
21. VA Handbook, 6500.5, Incorporating Security and Privacy in System Development Lifecycle.
22. VA Handbook 6500.6, "Contract Security," March 12, 2010
23. Project Management Accountability System (PMAS) portal (reference PWS References -Technical Library at <https://www.voa.va.gov/>)
24. OIT ProPath Process Methodology (reference PWS References -Technical Library and ProPath Library links at <https://www.voa.va.gov/>) NOTE: In the event of a conflict, OIT ProPath takes precedence over other processes or methodologies.
25. Technical Reference Model (TRM) (reference at <http://trm.oit.va.gov/TRMHomePage.asp>, or <https://www.voa.va.gov/>)
26. National Institute Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Publications
27. VA Directive 6508, VA Privacy Impact Assessment, October 3, 2008
28. VA Directive 6300, Records and Information Management, February 26, 2009
29. VA Handbook, 6300.1, Records Management Procedures, March 24, 2010

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

Corporate Data Center Operations (CDCO), AITC has a requirement to provide high capacity and fully redundant Internet Service that is provided by a SONET Ring. The SONET Ring infrastructure is the backbone fiber-optic digital transmission system for 99 percent of all critical data and voice circuits at AITC. The SONET Ring includes the use of Optical Carrier Level 48 (OC-48) circuits to transport and handoff local data and voice transmissions to the service provider's Local Exchange Carrier (LEC) at speeds of up to 2.488 Gbit/sec. The SONET Ring provides a sophisticated framing structure for operations, administration and maintenance within the network. The purpose of this acquisition is to provide Commercial-Off-The- Shelf (COTS) SONET services for the transmission of data and management, configuration, installation, testing, and maintenance of the SONET Ring infrastructure.

3.1 PERFORMANCE PERIOD

Period of Performance (POP) shall include a 9-months effort without option periods.

Any work at the Government site shall not take place on Federal holidays or weekends unless directed by the Contracting Officer (CO).

There are ten Federal holidays set by law (USC Title 5 Section 6103) that VA follows:

Under current definitions, four are set by date:

New Year's Day	January 1
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Independence Day	July 4
Veterans Day	November 11
Christmas Day	December 25

If any of the above falls on a Saturday, then Friday shall be observed as a holiday. Similarly, if one falls on a Sunday, then Monday shall be observed as a holiday.

The other six are set by a day of the week and month:

Martin Luther King's Birthday	Third Monday in January
Washington's Birthday	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
Thanksgiving	Fourth Thursday in November

3.2 PLACE OF PERFORMANCE

Tasks under this PWS shall be performed at the Contractor's facility, except in the event of installation due to service upgrade or maintenance as necessary for installation or to guarantee uptime. In the event of installation or maintenance, some effort may take place at

AITC,
1615 Woodward Street,
Austin, Texas 78744.

3.3 TRAVEL

The Government does not anticipate travel under this effort to perform the tasks associated with the requirement.

4.0 SPECIFIC TASKS AND DELIVERABLES

The Contractor shall provide:

4.1 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

4.1.1 CONTRACTOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Contractor shall deliver a Contractor Project Management Plan (CPMP) that lays out the Contractor's approach, timeline and tools to be used in execution of the contract. The CPMP should take the form of both a narrative and graphic format that displays the schedule, milestones, risks and resource support. The CPMP shall also include how the Contractor shall coordinate and execute planned, routine, and ad hoc data collection reporting requests as identified within the PWS. The initial baseline CPMP shall be concurred upon and updated monthly thereafter. The Contractor shall update and

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maintain the VA PM approved CPMP throughout the period of performance. Contractor should provide a plan, coordination with AITC connectivity management personnel during the transition from two SONET rings into one.

Deliverables:

A. Contractor Project Management Plan

4.1.2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall provide the Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) with Quarterly Progress Reports in electronic form in Microsoft Word and Project formats. The report shall include detailed instructions/explanations for each required data element, to ensure that data is accurate and consistent. These reports shall reflect data as of the last day of the preceding quarter.

- a. The Quarterly Progress Reports shall cover all work completed during the reporting period and work planned for the subsequent reporting period. The report shall also identify any problems that arose and a description of how the problems were resolved. If problems have not been completely resolved, the Contractor shall provide an explanation including their plan and timeframe for resolving the issue. The Contractor shall monitor performance against the CPMP and report any deviations. It is expected that the Contractor will keep in communication with VA accordingly so that issues that arise are transparent to both parties to prevent escalation of outstanding issues.
- b. The Contractor shall provide an inventory report of all circuits that utilize the SONET ring infrastructure. At a minimum, the report shall contain the following information:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1. SONET ID | Which SONET is the circuit on? |
| 2. TIMESLOT | What slot on the SONET is the circuit on? |
| 3. CIRCUIT | What is the circuit ID? (Full ID with corresponding telephone number if applicable) |
| 4. PORT CHARGE | What is the port charge for this circuit? |

Deliverables:

- A. Quarterly Progress Report
- B. Quarterly Inventory Report

4.2 PRIVATE SONET RING DESIGN

The Contractor shall deliver a design document, containing a logical and physical architecture design for a solution that meets the requirements listed paragraph 3.0 scope of work.

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The design shall include:

- Drawing of fiber routes used by the SONET rings between the AITC and the two proposed POPs
- Proposed layout of hardware to be installed at the AITC Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting & Conformance (DMARC)
- Explanation of how Contractor plans to handoff circuits to Networx contract holders and the LEC.
- Definitions of technology used

Deliverables:

- a. Private SONET Ring Design Document

4.3 PRIVATE SONET RING CUTOVER PLAN

The Contractor shall cutover and test each SONET TDM circuit. No functionality shall be lost in the cutover. The Contractor shall provide a cutover plan, to minimize disruption, including the following:

- How circuits will be cut over to the from the two SONET ring to the single ring.
- Schedule of circuit cutover for each circuit

Deliverables:

- a. SONET Cutover Transition Plan

4.4 SONET CIRCUIT DELIVERY (MONTHLY SERVICE)

After cutover of circuits is complete, the Contractor shall provide continuous SONET Ring service for one OC-48 private SONET rings between the customer premises, located at 1615 Woodward St, Austin, TX 78772 and one Contractor-owned or collocated points of presence (POP) or central offices (CO).

The Contractor shall continue to coordinate and provide for all circuit hand-offs to current GSA Networx contract holders—AT&T, CenturyLink, and Verizon—at each POP/CO. The Contractor shall guarantee the ability to handoff current and future local and long-haul carriers' data and voice circuits, should the nationwide GSA Networx contract be awarded to other carriers, at each POP/CO.

The Contractor shall, in case of damage or failure of one POP/CO or the optical fiber in-between, guarantee the SONET self-healing rings will re-route to a fully operational POP/CO, utilizing undamaged optical fiber routes. Each circuit utilizing the SONET rings shall, regardless of failure at one POP/CO, have full functionality to hand-off circuits to GSA Networx contract holders for local and long-haul circuits with <50ms interruption.

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The Contractor shall provide all repair services for any component, part, or hardware associated with the SONET rings. Contractor shall guarantee no interruption in service during any transition necessary to provide redundant and diverse SONET ring connectivity to the AITC DMARC. The Contractor shall not provision any circuit on the AITC private SONET ring without a Letter of Authorization or Letter of Agency (LOA) from the Contracting Officer.

AITC will be responsible for repairs and maintenance for all networking equipment that is located on the AITC side of the DMARC.

AITC estimate a ten percent yearly increase of customer/POP circuits connected to the SONET.

Deliverables:

Not required

4.5 SONET RING CUTOVER REGROOMING

The Contractor shall have up to 4 months from date of award to merge all existing circuits on incumbent SONET Ring N8V639 onto one SONET Ring--N8V242. The Contractor shall coordinate with the COR to reprogram, move, or otherwise change the existing operation of the circuits that utilize the SONET Rings, either physically or logically, to accomplish the task with minimal interruption. The Contractor may be required to perform work outside normal business hours to minimize disruption to services.

Deliverables:

SONET RING CUTOVER REGROOMING PLAN

4.6 UNIVERSAL SERVICE FEE

The Contractor shall include the Universal Service Fee (USF) on the monthly invoices and should not exceed a maximum of 20 percent from the monthly service. The USF fee is evaluated at quarterly bases for adjustments.

Deliverables:

Not required

5.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 ENTERPRISE AND IT FRAMEWORK

Requirement is not required

5.2 POSITION/TASK RISK DESIGNATION LEVEL(S) AND CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

5.2.1 POSITION/TASK RISK DESIGNATION LEVEL(S)

Position Sensitivity	Background Investigation (in accordance with Department of Veterans Affairs 0710 Handbook, "Personnel Security Suitability Program," Appendix A)
Low	National Agency Check with Written Inquiries (NACI) A NACI is conducted by OPM and covers a 5-year period. It consists of a review of records contained in the OPM Security Investigations Index (SII) and the DOD Defense Central Investigations Index (DCII), FBI name check, FBI fingerprint check, and written inquiries to previous employers and references listed on the application for employment. In VA it is used for Non-sensitive or Low Risk positions.
Moderate	Moderate Background Investigation (MBI) A MBI is conducted by OPM and covers a 5-year period. It consists of a review of National Agency Check (NAC) records [OPM Security Investigations Index (SII), DOD Defense Central Investigations Index (DCII), FBI name check, and a FBI fingerprint check], a credit report covering a period of 5 years, written inquiries to previous employers and references listed on the application for employment; an interview with the subject, law enforcement check; and a verification of the educational degree.
High	Background Investigation (BI) A BI is conducted by OPM and covers a 10-year period. It consists of a review of National Agency Check (NAC) records [OPM Security Investigations Index (SII), DOD Defense Central Investigations Index (DCII), FBI name check, and a FBI fingerprint check report], a credit report covering a period of 10 years, written inquiries to previous employers and references listed on the application for employment; an interview with the subject, spouse, neighbors, supervisor, co-workers; court records, law enforcement check, and a verification of the educational degree.

The position sensitivity and the level of background investigation commensurate with the required level of access for the following tasks within the Performance Work Statement are:

	Position Sensitivity and Background Investigation Requirements		
<u>Task Number</u>	<u>Low/NACI</u>	<u>Moderate/MBI</u>	<u>High/BI</u>
3.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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5.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Tasks identified above and the resulting Position Sensitivity and Background Investigation requirements identify, in effect, the Background Investigation requirements for Contractor individuals, based upon the tasks the particular Contractor individual will be working. The submitted Contractor Staff Roster must indicate the required Background Investigation Level for each Contractor individual based upon the tasks the Contractor individual will be working, in accordance with their submitted proposal.

5.2.2 CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

Contractor Responsibilities:

- a. The Contractor shall prescreen all personnel requiring access to the computer systems to ensure they maintain the appropriate Background Investigation, and are able to read, write, speak and understand the English language.
- b. The Contractor shall bear the expense of obtaining background investigations.
- c. Within 3 business days after award, the Contractor shall provide a roster of Contractor and Subcontractor employees to the COR to begin their background investigations. The roster shall contain the Contractor's Full Name, Full Social Security Number, Date of Birth, Place of Birth, and individual background investigation level requirement (based upon Section 6.2 Tasks).
- d. The Contractor should coordinate the location of the nearest VA fingerprinting office through the COR. Only electronic fingerprints are authorized.
- e. For a Low Risk designation the following forms are required to be completed: 1.OF-306 and 2. DVA Memorandum – Electronic Fingerprints. For Moderate or High Risk the following forms are required to be completed: 1. VA Form 0710 and 2. DVA Memorandum – Electronic Fingerprints. These should be submitted to the COR within 5 business days after award.
- f. The Contractor personnel will receive an email notification from the Security and Investigation Center (SIC), through the Electronics Questionnaire for Investigations Processes (e-QIP) identifying the website link that includes detailed instructions regarding completion of the investigation documents (SF85, SF85P, or SF 86). The Contractor personnel shall submit all required information related to their background investigations utilizing the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) Electronic Questionnaire for Investigations Processing (e-QIP).
- g. The Contractor is to certify and release the e-QIP document, print and sign the signature pages, and send them to the COR for electronic submission to the SIC. These should be submitted to the COR within 3 business days of receipt of the e-QIP notification email.

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- h. The Contractor shall be responsible for the actions of all personnel provided to work for VA under this contract. In the event that damages arise from work performed by Contractor provided personnel, under the auspices of this contract, the Contractor shall be responsible for all resources necessary to remedy the incident.
- i. A Contractor may be granted unescorted access to VA facilities and/or access to VA Information Technology resources (network and/or protected data) with a favorably adjudicated Special Agreement Check (SAC) or "Closed, No Issues" (SAC) finger print results, training delineated in VA Handbook 6500.6 (Appendix C, Section 9), and, the signed "Contractor Rules of Behavior." However, the Contractor will be responsible for the actions of the Contractor personnel they provide to perform work for VA. The investigative history for Contractor personnel working under this contract must be maintained in the database of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).
- j. The Contractor, when notified of an unfavorably adjudicated background investigation on a Contractor employee as determined by the Government, shall withdraw the employee from consideration in working under the contract.
- k. Failure to comply with the Contractor personnel security investigative requirements may result in termination of the contract for default.

5.3 METHOD AND DISTRIBUTION OF DELIVERABLES

The Contractor shall deliver documentation in electronic format, unless otherwise directed in Section B of the solicitation/contract. Acceptable electronic media include: MS Word 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Excel 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS PowerPoint 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Project 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Access 2000/2003/2007/2010, MS Visio 2000/2002/2003/2007/2010, AutoCAD 2002/2004/2007/2010, and Adobe Postscript Data Format (PDF).

5.4 PERFORMANCE METRICS

The table below defines the Performance Standards and Acceptable Performance Levels for Objectives associated with this effort.

Performance Objective	Performance Standard	Acceptable Performance Levels
1. Technical Needs	Shows understanding of requirements Efficient and effective in meeting requirements Meets technical needs and mission requirements Offers quality	Satisfactory or higher

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	services/products	
2. Project Milestones and Schedule	Quick response capability Products completed, reviewed, delivered in timely manner Notifies customer in advance of potential problems	Satisfactory or higher
3. Project Staffing	Currency of expertise Personnel possess necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform tasks	Satisfactory or higher
4. Value Added	Provided valuable service to Government Services/products delivered were of desired quality	Satisfactory or higher

The Government will utilize a Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (QASP) throughout the life of the contract to ensure that the Contractor is performing the services required by this PWS in an acceptable manner. The Government reserves the right to alter or change the surveillance methods in the QASP at its own discretion.

6.5 FACILITY/RESOURCE PROVISIONS

All procedural guides, reference materials, and program documentation for the project and other Government applications will also be provided on an as-needed basis.

The Contractor shall request other Government documentation deemed pertinent to the work accomplishment directly from the Government officials with whom the Contractor has contact. The Contractor shall consider the COR as the final source for needed Government documentation when the Contractor fails to secure the documents by other means. The Contractor is expected to use common knowledge and resourcefulness in securing all other reference materials, standard industry publications, and related materials that are pertinent to the work.

6.6 FACILITY/RESOURCE PROVISIONS

Government property will not be provided.

ADDENDUM A

A1.0 Cyber and Information Security Requirements for VA IT Services

The Contractor shall ensure adequate LAN/Internet, data, information, and system security in accordance with VA standard operating procedures and standard PWS language, conditions, laws, and regulations. The Contractor's firewall and web server shall meet or exceed VA minimum requirements for security. All VA data shall be protected behind an approved firewall. Any security violations or attempted violations shall be reported to the VA Program Manager and VA Information Security Officer as soon as possible. The Contractor shall follow all applicable VA policies and procedures governing information security, especially those that pertain to certification and accreditation.

Contractor supplied equipment, PCs of all types, equipment with hard drives, etc. for contract services must meet all security requirements that apply to Government Furnished Equipment (GFE) and Government Owned Equipment (GOE). Security Requirements include: a) VA Approved Encryption Software must be installed on all laptops or mobile devices before placed into operation, b) Bluetooth equipped devices are prohibited within VA; Bluetooth must be permanently disabled or removed from the device, c) VA approved anti-virus and firewall software, d) Equipment must meet all VA sanitization requirements and procedures before disposal. The COR, CO, the Project Manager, and the Information Security Officer (ISO) must be notified and verify all security requirements have been adhered to.

Each documented initiative under this contract incorporates VA Handbook 6500.6, "Contract Security," March 12, 2010 by reference as though fully set forth therein. The VA Handbook 6500.6, "Contract Security" shall also be included in every related agreement, contract or order. The VA Handbook 6500.6, Appendix C, is included in this document as Addendum B.

Training requirements: The Contractor shall complete all mandatory training courses on the current VA training site, the VA Talent Management System (TMS), and will be tracked therein. The TMS may be accessed at <https://www.tms.va.gov>. If you do not have a TMS profile, go to <https://www.tms.va.gov> and click on the "Create New User" link on the TMS to gain access.

Contractor employees shall complete a VA Systems Access Agreement if they are provided access privileges as an authorized user of the computer system of VA.

A2.0 VA Enterprise Architecture Compliance

The applications, supplies, and services furnished under this contract must comply with One-VA Enterprise Architecture (EA), available at <http://www.ea.oit.va.gov/index.asp> in force at the time of issuance of this contract, including the Program Management Plan and VA's rules, standards, and guidelines in the Technical Reference Model/Standards

Profile (TRMSP). VA reserves the right to assess contract deliverables for EA compliance prior to acceptance.

A2.1. VA Internet and Intranet Standards:

The Contractor shall adhere to and comply with VA Directive 6102 and VA Handbook 6102, Internet/Intranet Services, including applicable amendments and changes, if the Contractor's work includes managing, maintaining, establishing and presenting information on VA's Internet/Intranet Service Sites. This pertains, but is not limited to: creating announcements; collecting information; databases to be accessed, graphics and links to external sites.

Internet/Intranet Services Directive 6102 is posted at (copy and paste the following URL to browser): http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=409&FType=2

Internet/Intranet Services Handbook 6102 is posted at (copy and paste following URL to browser): http://www1.va.gov/vapubs/viewPublication.asp?Pub_ID=410&FType=2

A3.0 Notice of the Federal Accessibility Law Affecting All Electronic and Information Technology Procurements (Section 508)

On August 7, 1998, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was amended to require that when Federal departments or agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use Electronic and Information Technology, that they shall ensure it allows Federal employees with disabilities to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access to and use of information and data by other Federal employees. Section 508 required the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) to publish standards setting forth a definition of electronic and information technology and the technical and functional criteria for such technology to comply with Section 508. These standards have been developed and published with an effective date of December 21, 2000. Federal departments and agencies shall develop all Electronic and Information Technology requirements to comply with the standards found in 36 CFR 1194.

Section 508 – Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Standards:

The Section 508 standards established by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) are incorporated into, and made part of all VA orders, solicitations and purchase orders developed to procure Electronic and Information Technology (EIT). These standards are found in their entirety at: <http://www.section508.gov> and <http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/standards.htm>. A printed copy of the standards will be supplied upon request. The Contractor shall comply with the technical standards as marked:

 x § 1194.21 Software applications and operating systems

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- x § 1194.22 Web-based intranet and internet information and applications
- x § 1194.23 Telecommunications products
- x § 1194.24 Video and multimedia products
- x § 1194.25 Self contained, closed products
- x § 1194.26 Desktop and portable computers
- x § 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria
- x § 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support

The standards do not require the installation of specific accessibility-related software or the attachment of an assistive technology device, but merely require that the EIT be compatible with such software and devices so that it can be made accessible if so required by the agency in the future.

A4.0 Physical Security & Safety Requirements:

The Contractor and their personnel shall follow all VA policies, standard operating procedures, applicable laws and regulations while on VA property. Violations of VA regulations and policies may result in citation and disciplinary measures for persons violating the law.

1. The Contractor and their personnel shall wear visible identification at all times while they are on the premises.
2. VA does not provide parking spaces at the work site; the Contractor must obtain parking at the work site if needed. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to park in the appropriate designated parking areas. VA will not invalidate or make reimbursement for parking violations of the Contractor under any conditions.
3. Smoking is prohibited inside/outside any building other than the designated smoking areas.
4. Possession of weapons is prohibited.
5. The Contractor shall obtain all necessary licenses and/or permits required to perform the work, with the exception of software licenses that need to be procured from a Contractor or vendor in accordance with the requirements document. The Contractor shall take all reasonable precautions necessary to protect persons and property from injury or damage during the performance of this contract.

A5.0 Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure

The Contractor shall follow all VA rules and regulations regarding information security to prevent disclosure of sensitive information to unauthorized individuals or organizations.

The Contractor may have access to Protected Health Information (PHI) and Electronic Protected Health Information (EPHI) that is subject to protection under the regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, as mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA); 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E, the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health

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Information ("Privacy Rule"); and 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and C, the Security Standard ("Security Rule"). Pursuant to the Privacy and Security Rules, the Contractor must agree in writing to certain mandatory provisions regarding the use and disclosure of PHI and EPHI.

1. The Contractor will have access to some privileged and confidential materials of VA. These printed and electronic documents are for internal use only, are not to be copied or released without permission, and remain the sole property of VA. Some of these materials are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 (revised by PL 93-5791) and Title 38. Unauthorized disclosure of Privacy Act or Title 38 covered materials is a criminal offense.
2. The VA Contracting Officer will be the sole authorized official to release in writing, any data, draft deliverables, final deliverables, or any other written or printed materials pertaining to this contract. The Contractor shall release no information. Any request for information relating to this contract presented to the Contractor shall be submitted to the VA Contracting Officer for response.
3. Contractor personnel recognize that in the performance of this effort, Contractor personnel may receive or have access to sensitive information, including information provided on a proprietary basis by carriers, equipment manufacturers and other private or public entities. Contractor personnel agree to safeguard such information and use the information exclusively in the performance of this contract. Contractor shall follow all VA rules and regulations regarding information security to prevent disclosure of sensitive information to unauthorized individuals or organizations as enumerated in this section and elsewhere in this Contract and its subparts and appendices.
4. Contractor shall limit access to the minimum number of personnel necessary for contract performance for all information considered sensitive or proprietary in nature. If the Contractor is uncertain of the sensitivity of any information obtained during the performance this contract, the Contractor has a responsibility to ask the VA Contracting Officer.
5. Contractor shall train all of their employees involved in the performance of this contract on their roles and responsibilities for proper handling and nondisclosure of sensitive VA or proprietary information. Contractor personnel shall not engage in any other action, venture or employment wherein sensitive information shall be used for the profit of any party other than those furnishing the information. The sensitive information transferred, generated, transmitted, or stored herein is for VA benefit and ownership alone.
6. Contractor shall maintain physical security at all facilities housing the activities performed under this contract, including any Contractor facilities according to VA-approved guidelines and directives. The Contractor shall ensure that security procedures are defined and enforced to ensure all personnel who are provided access to patient data must comply with published procedures to protect the privacy and confidentiality of such information as required by VA.

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7. Contractor must adhere to the following:
 - a. The use of "thumb drives" or any other medium for transport of information is expressly prohibited.
 - b. Controlled access to system and security software and documentation.
 - c. Recording, monitoring, and control of passwords and privileges.
 - d. All terminated personnel are denied physical and electronic access to all data, program listings, data processing equipment and systems.
 - e. VA, as well as any Contractor (or Subcontractor) systems used to support development, provide the capability to cancel immediately all access privileges and authorizations upon employee termination.
 - f. Contractor PM and VA PM are informed within twenty-four (24) hours of any employee termination.
 - g. Acquisition sensitive information shall be marked "Acquisition Sensitive" and shall be handled as "For Official Use Only (FOUO)".
 - h. Contractor does not require access to classified data.
8. Regulatory standard of conduct governs all personnel directly and indirectly involved in procurements. All personnel engaged in procurement and related activities shall conduct business in a manner above reproach and, except as authorized by statute or regulation, with complete impartiality and with preferential treatment for none. The general rule is to strictly avoid any conflict of interest or even the appearance of a conflict of interest in VA/Contractor relationships.

ADDENDUM B

**THE VA INFORMATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM SECURITY/PRIVACY
LANGUAGE, VA HANDBOOK 6500.6, APPENDIX C, MARCH 12, 2010**

B1. GENERAL

Contractors, Contractor personnel, Subcontractors, and Subcontractor personnel shall be subject to the same Federal laws, regulations, standards, and VA Directives and Handbooks as VA and VA personnel regarding information and information system security.

B2. ACCESS TO VA INFORMATION AND VA INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Not applicable

B3. VA INFORMATION CUSTODIAL LANGUAGE

Not applicable

B4. INFORMATION SYSTEM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable

B5. INFORMATION SYSTEM HOSTING, OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, OR USE

Not applicable

B6. SECURITY INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Not applicable.

B7. LIQUIDATED DAMAGES FOR DATA BREACH

Not applicable

B8. SECURITY CONTROLS COMPLIANCE TESTING

Not applicable

B9. TRAINING

Not applicable

Synchronous Optical Networking (SONET) Ring
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ATTACHMENTS